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*AMSAT *News Service*ANS-007*
January 7, 2024

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The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on https://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to: ans-editor [at] amsat.org

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see: https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ans.amsat.org/

Welcome to the New Look AMSAT News Service

For over 30 years, the AMSAT News Service has been a text only service. Initially, ANS was distributed via dial-up modems and packet networks. As technology has moved on, the text only format has become a significant limitation. In particular, the text only format was often not responsive on mobile devices in many email clients. We hope this new format improves the readability for our users and makes the content more engaging. We do plan to continue tweaking this format as the year goes on.

We welcome feedback on this change at ans-editor [at] amsat.org

[ANS thanks the AMSAT News Service Team for the above information]

2024 President's Club Coins Now Available

The 2024 President's Club coins are now available! This year's coin features an image of AMSAT's next satellite - GOLF-TEE.

At all levels of membership - beginning with annual donations of $120 or more - President's Club donors receive the following recognition:

- Listing in the AMSAT News Service and The AMSAT Journal
- Commemorative Coin – A unique 2” metal coin with a highly polished

gold finish and four-color accents. Each year's coin will feature a different color scheme and different OSCAR satellite.
- Membership Certificate – An 8.5" x 11" full-color personalized certificate.

Donors at the Silver or higher levels receive even more benefits such as a handsome personalized acrylic desk plaque, tickets to the annual AMSAT Symposium, luncheons and dinners. See the table below for complete details. (Note that recognition items are provided by an anonymous donor and no member dues are used. 100% percent of your donation is used for AMSAT activities.)

For persons or clubs wanting to make a contribution by check or electronic transfer, please contact Frank Karnauskas, VP-Development at f.karnauskas [at] amsat.org. Remember, AMSAT is a 501(c)3 corporation and your contribution may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

For more information and to donate today, visit the AMSAT President's Club <https://www.amsat.org/join-the-amsat-presidents-club/>.

[ANS thanks Frank Karnauskas, N1UW, AMSAT Vice President - Development, for the above information]
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*The 2024 Coins Are Here Now!Help Support GOLF and Fox Plus.**Join <https://www.amsat.org/join-the-amsat-presidents-club/> the AMSAT President's Club today!*

<https://www.amsat.org/join-the-amsat-presidents-club/2024-coin-both_586/#main>

W2RS Memorial AMSAT CW Activity Day Summary
N6UA operating during the 2024 W2RS Memorial AMSAT CW Activity Day

The W2RS Memorial AMSAT CW Activity Day occurred on January 1st. Reports of activity were received on the AMSAT-BB from several stations. Steve Nordahl, NS3L, in Nazareth, PA reported making 13 CW QSOs on RS-44 and JO-97:

RS-44: W3AVP, W0BZ, KD4O, N6UA, NU1U, KE8RJU/7, NM3B, VA3NNA, N8MR. NA1ME, KN2K
JO-97: WA8FXQ, WB2TQE

Steve Greene, KS1G, in northern Virginia, reported that he worked NM3B, N8MR, and WA3FIR on the 1350Z pass of RS-44. He did hear NS3L work NM3B, but didn't find him later in the pass to work him too.

Scott Davis, K5TA, reported working N6UA and KA0WKQ on RS-44 and WA8FXQ on AO-7.

Doug Tabor, N6UA, operated portable with a key attached to his leg. He operated on two passes of RS-44 - one from the back deck and one from the driveway. He worked NS3L, K5TA, and NA1ME and heard both WB7VUF and KE8RJU/7.

Thanks to all for participating in this annual event!

*In March 2022, the AMSAT community lost one of our pioneers when Ray Soifer, W2RS, became a silent key. In addition to his numerous contributions to AMSAT and the worldwide amateur satellite community, Ray was also the long time organizer of AMSAT's CW Activity Day – previously AMSAT Straight Key Night – held in conjunction with the ARRL's event on New Year's Day. In recognition of Ray's long time service to AMSAT and his keen interest in CW operating via satellite, AMSAT's CW Activity Day is now

known as the W2RS Memorial AMSAT CW Activity Day.*

[ANS thanks Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, AMSAT Executive Vice President, for the above information]

VUCC & DXCC Satellite Standing as of January 1, 2024VUCC Satellite Award/Endorsement Change Summary
December 01, 2023 to January 01, 2024

Call	1-Dec	1-Jan
K8DP	1581	1629
WC7V	1426	1451
AA5PK	1404	1426
N8RO	1384	1401
DL2GRC	1108	1166
N0JE	1057	1075
KC9ELU	254	1056
DG7RO	285	1005
AC9O	836	1001
XE1L	860	915
EA2AA	856	875
KG0D	700	801
JN2QCV	507	726
KJ7DZ	600	700
KK4YEL	589	674
N8MR	617	658
KB1HY	604	648
W8MTB	600	620
KC4CJ	126	602
JA1QJI	253	600
A65BR	532	554
EA3TA	400	503
JS1LQI	436	500
HP2VX	481	496
N3CAL	471	480
HB9GWJ	450	476
JA1GZK	350	435
KP3V	310	402
AG7NR	350	400
N9ZTS	302	400
DL8GAM	351	375
N6PAZ	342	350
N7ZO	304	350
AL7ID	261	320
K8BL	300	310
N7UJJ	250	308
ZS2BK	244	305
W6AER	201	302
HL1WP	New	300
KH6WI	252	300
K6VHF	250	276
K9AQ	200	250
WD9EWK (DM41)	225	229
WA8ZID	202	226
KG4AKV (FM14)	New	217
YV1DIG	200	213
JS2GGD	157	204
WD9EWK (DM23)	195	200
JL3OUW	123	187
AK2S	New	152
N6UTC (DM15)	126	150
K9MU	100	129
N6UTC (DM14)	110	128
KB4DSL	New	127
WD9EWK (DM13)	109	116

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N8XHF       New   106
EA3HAH       New   100
WA1JAY       New   100

Congratulations to the new VUCC holders!
HL1WP is first VUCC Satellite holder from PM37
N8XHF is first VUCC Satellite holder from FM16
DXCC Satellite Award/Endorsement Change Summary
December 01, 2023 to January 01, 2024
Call 1-Dec 1-Jan
S57NML         125     175
OE6MDF         143     169
VU2LBW         152     162
YO3APJ         149     162
SV8CS         150     153
LA6OP         136     143
HB9RYZ         139     141
SP3AU         136     137
KB1HY         131     135
YO9HP         108     131
F6AOJ         125     129
IK6GZM         101     124
IK4DRY         107     122
IW7DOL         116     122
K8DP         112     122
A65BR         104     112
CT1EEB         111     112
KC9ELU         101     112
AA5PK         100     110
LA7XK         New     106
TF1A         102     103
LA0FA         100     102
UW8SM         New     102
EA5RM         100     101
W8LR         New     100

Congratulations to the new DXCC Satellite holders!
UW8SM is first DXCC Satellite holder from KN59

*[ANS thanks Jon Goering, N7AZ, for the above information]*
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Changes to AMSAT-NA TLE Distribution for January 5, 2024

Two Line Elements or TLEs, often referred to as Keplerian elements or keps
in the amateur community, are the inputs to the SGP4 standard mathematical
model of spacecraft orbits used by most amateur tracking programs. Weekly
updates are completely adequate for most amateur satellites. TLE bulletin
files are updated Thursday evenings around 2300 UTC, or more frequently if
new high interest satellites are launched. More information may be found at
https://www.amsat.org/keplerian-elements-resources/

The following satellite has been added to this week's AMSAT-NA TLE
distribution:

*BeliefSat-0* NORAD Cat ID 58695 IARU coordinated downlink on 145.980 MHz

The following satellite has been removed from this week's AMSAT-NA TLE
distribution:

*VENTA 1* NORAD Cat ID 42791 Decayed from orbit on or about 03 January 2024

*[ANS thanks Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P, AMSAT Orbital Elements Manager, for the
above information]*
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*Need new satellite antennas? Purchase an M2 LEO-Pack from the **AMSAT Store! <https://amsat.org/product-category/hardware/>**When you purchase through **AMSAT, a portion of the proceeds goes towards **Keeping Amateur Radio in Space.*

ARISS and Amateur Radio Featured on the TODAY Show

On January 5, 2024, the TODAY Show featured Harry Smith of NBC News going behind the scenes of last month's QSO between Harbor Creek School in Pennsylvania and the ISS. Video of the segment can be seen on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Gn1UKszRNY>

ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said of the segment: "What a phenomenal story of a breathtaking ARISS educational experience. Our heartiest congratulations to the Harbor Creek School: the Advanced Technology Group students, educators, families and Leader/Assistant Principal/ARISS Educator Drew Mortensen. WOW!!"

[ANS thanks the TODAY Show and ARISS for the above information]

Assistance Requested With CubeSat History Project

A general announcement to the AMSAT community!

Prof. Robert "Bob" Twiggs KE6QMD and Dr. Aaron Zucherman KM6CHY (a former student of his) are working on gathering and publishing a series on the history of the creation and adoption of the CubeSat, including its direct SmallSat forebears (AMSAT, WeberSat, OPAL, etc.) and educational picosat successors (CanSats, PocketQubes and ThinSats). While outstanding technical accounts have been written on the subject, we plan on focusing on the underreported human stories and drama during this early history.

You can see our announcement here:
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/bob-twiggs-b6163125_cubesat-smallsat-smallsatellite-activity-7103473477138989056-hUNb?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

The project was also mentioned in Aviation Week:
https://aviationweek.com/aerospace/commercial-space/cubesats-how-accidental-standard-launched-new-space-age

We specifically wanted to reach out to the AMSAT community to find those who worked on the early educational smallsat missions and AMSAT members who were mentors to many of the earliest (pre-2010) CubeSat mission teams. However, if you feel you have something else to contribute to CubeSat's history, we want to hear about it!

A list of missions we are hoping to find AMSAT members from includes:

- WeberSAT (Weber-OSCAR 18, WO-18, Microsat-3)
- OPAL (OPAL-OSCAR 38, OO-38, StenSat,)
- JAWSAT (Weber-OSCAR 39, WO-39)
- SSETI-Express (XO-53, eXpress-OSCAR 53)
- CUTE-1 (CO-55, CubeSat-OSCAR 55)
- CUTE-1.7 (CO-56, CubeSat-OSCAR 56)
- CUBESAT XI-IV (CO-57, CubeSat-OSCAR 57)
- CUBESAT XI-V (CO-58, CubeSat-OSCAR 58)
- Delfi-C3 (DO 64, Delfi-OSCAR 64)

Please feel free to contact azucherman [at] gmail.com if you are interested in contributing.

[ANS thanks Aaron Zucherman, PhD, KM6CHY, for the above information]

ARISS News

Amateurs and others around the world may listen in on contacts between amateurs operating in schools and allowing students to interact with astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station. The downlink frequency on which to listen is 145.800 MHz worldwide.

No contacts have been scheduled from 2023-12-21 to 2024-01-14. The complete schedule page has been updated as of 2023-12-21 05:00 UTC.

The Service Module radio is temporarily stowed.

As always, if there is an EVA, a docking, or an undocking; the ARISS radios are turned off as part of the safety protocol.

The crossband repeater continues to be active (145.990 MHz up {PL 67} & 437.800 MHz down), If any crewmember is so inclined, all they have to do is pick up the microphone, raise the volume up, and talk on the crossband repeater. So give a listen, you just never know.

Note, all times are approximate. It is recommended that you do your own orbital prediction or start listening about 10 minutes before the listed time.

The latest information on the operation mode can be found at https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html

The latest list of frequencies in use can be found at https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html

[ANS thanks Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, one of the ARISS operation team mentors for the above information]

Upcoming Satellite Operations

No scheduled operations are listed at this time.

A growing number of satellite rovers are currently engaged in sharing their grid square activations on https://hams.at. By visiting the website, you gain easy access to comprehensive information about the operators responsible for activating specific grid squares. Additionally, you have the ability to assess the match score between yourself and a particular rover for a given pass, while also being able to identify the upcoming satellite passes that are accessible from your location.

[ANS thanks Ian Parsons, K5ZM, AMSAT Rover Page Manager, for the above information]

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* Want to fly the colors on your own grid expedition?*
Get an AMSAT car flag and other neat stuff from our Zazzle store <https://www.zazzle.com/store/amsat_gear>!
25% of the purchase price of each product goes towards Keeping Amateur Radio in Space

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Hamfests, Conventions, Maker Faires, and Other Events

AMSAT Ambassadors provide presentations, demonstrate communicating through amateur satellites, and host information tables at club meetings, hamfests, conventions, maker faires, and other events.

AMSAT Ambassador Clint Bradford, K6LCS, says,

"Think a 75-minute presentation on "working the easy satellites" would be appropriate for your club or event? Let me know by emailing me at k6lcsclint (at) gmail (dot) com or calling me at 909-999-SATS (7287)!"

Clint has NEVER given the exact same show twice: EACH of the 150+ presentations so far has been customized/tailored to their audiences.
Scheduled EventsARISS 40th Anniversary Conference: Celebrating the Positive Impact of Amateur Radio on Human Spaceflight

Center for Space Education, Adjacent to NASA Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Center, Florida, USA
February 22-24, 2024

More information is available at https://www.ariss.org/overview.html

[ANS thanks Clint Bradford, K6LCS, and AMSAT for the above information]

Satellite Shorts from All Over

+ The ARRL has published Logbook of the World configuration file version 11.27, adding support for QSOs made through SO-121.

+ The SaxaVord Spaceport on the Scottish island of Unst in the Shetland Islands was approved to launch rockets in 2024, the first fully licensed orbital spaceport in Western Europe. (ANS thanks The Orbital Index for the above information)

+ China launched 4 weather satellites and a pair of Beidou satellites… but again dropped a booster full of highly toxic hypergols on someone's house. Video at https://bit.ly/3vo9mhu (ANS thanks The Orbital Index for the above information)

Join AMSAT today at https://launch.amsat.org/

In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership to:

- Societies (a recognized group, clubs or organization).
- Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate.
- Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status.
- Memberships are available for annual and lifetime terms.

Contact info [at] amsat.org for additional membership information.

73 and remember to help Keep Amateur Radio in Space!

This week's ANS Editor,

Paul Stoetzer, N8HM
n8hm [at] amsat.org <http://amsat.org>

ANS is a service of AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, 712 H Street NE, Suite 1653, Washington, DC 20002